

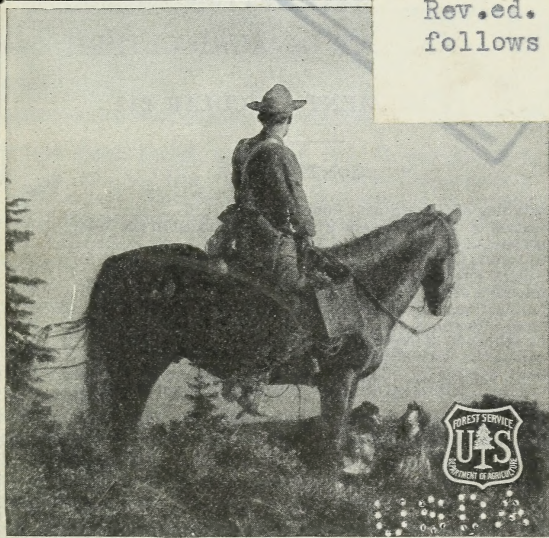
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GOVERNMENT FOREST WORK

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*"The outward eye, the quiet will,
And the striding heart from hill to hill."*

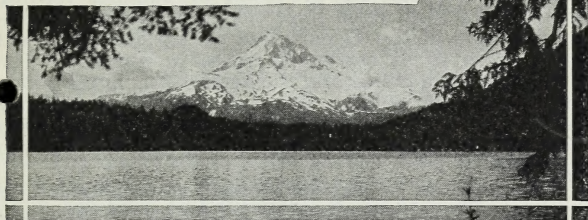
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR 211

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Government Forest Work



THE chief forest work of the Government is in charge of the United States Department of Agriculture. This is because the science of forestry is essentially a branch of agriculture, for it has to do with the growing of successive crops of timber from the soil. It is also closely related to other lines of work in the same department, particularly entomology and plant diseases.

The administration of the national forests is directly in charge of the Forest Service, which is a bureau of the Department of Agriculture. Its chief is designated "the Forester." Besides administering the national forests, the service also makes investigations in the interest of the best use of the forests and forest products of the country generally. These investigations are, in purpose and method, comparable with those of other bureaus in the same department and often concern kindred matters. The problems involved in the administration of the national forests are fundamentally agricultural. When forestry is practiced, timber becomes a crop produced from the soil under methods which must be developed scientifically, as other branches of agriculture are developed. In most countries where forestry is an important governmental activity it is grouped with agriculture. Right handling of the forest ranges is a problem of animal hus-

bandry and forage-plant production. Grazing the national forests is already largely supplemental to ranching, through its provision of summer feeding grounds for local farm livestock; and under the administration of the Department of Agriculture it will grow more so as settlers increase in number. The present grazing policy and the agricultural lands policy of the Forest Service promote settlement. Water conservation has in view the interests of irrigation farmers. Forestry and agriculture are interwoven and akin.

The keynote of national-forest administration is service. The object aimed at is best use of the many resources of the forests in the interest of the public welfare. From the standpoint of material wealth, the forests have their greatest importance as sources of supply of wood, water, and range forage. They have also a great and growing value to the country as places of recreation. Not only are they open to all persons for all lawful purposes; the prime object always held in view is to make them more useful to more people. Naturally they are of greatest benefit to the local residents near them and to the States in which they lie; but they are useful also to the whole country in ways that are not always realized.

Most of the national forests are located in the mountainous regions of the country, where the preservation of tree growth is of great importance. From the hardwoods of the southern Appalachians to the spruces of the White Mountains in New England, from the piñon and juniper stands where tree growth begins in the southern Rockies of New Mexico to the pine and fir forests of the Canadian line in Montana and Idaho, from the brush-covered foothills of the San Jacinto and San Bernardino Mountains in southern California to the vast softwood stands of the Olympics and Cascades in northern Washington, the national forests lie mainly on the mountain slopes. Even along the Alaskan shore, where the Tongass and Chugach Forests form a tattered ribbon 600 miles long from the southern tip of the Territory to within

right of Mount McKinley, the valuable Sitka spruce and hemlock growth clothes the lower flanks of the coastal mountains. In these rugged regions of the country permanent forests constitute the highest use to which the land can be put.

The timber, water, grazing, recreational opportunities, and other resources of the national forests are for the use of the people. They contribute largely to industrial enterprises through their yearly cut of over three-quarters of a billion feet of timber, mostly used by sawmills and mines, protect watersheds of about one-third of the water-power resources of the country and the pure and abundant water supplies of a thousand towns and cities, furnish pasturage for nearly 14,000,000 head of livestock of all ages, and afford playgrounds for millions of recreation seekers, to whom these vacation places are made accessible by the building of roads and trails.

This booklet tells in a general way how these resources are handled in carrying on the manifold work involved in making them of fullest use to the public. It tells also something of other activities of the Forest Service conducted to bring about better use of our forests and forest products generally. More detailed information concerning the use of the national forests and their resources may be obtained by applying to any forest officer or to the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

BEGINNING OF GOVERNMENT FOREST WORK

Though the national forests represent the greatest single activity of the Government in forestry, Government forest work had its real beginning as far back as 1876, with the appointment by the Department of Agriculture of a special agent to study general forest conditions in the United States. In 1881 a Division of Forestry was created in the department, but for a long time it received an annual appropriation of less than \$30,000, and could be little more

than a bureau of information and advice. From this small beginning, as its field of work expanded, the division grew (1901) into the Bureau of Forestry, and finally (1905) into the Forest Service, with an appropriation for the fiscal year 1924 of nearly \$8,000,000, including \$305,000 for the suppression of fires and other destructive agencies and \$400,000 for cooperative fire protection.

To-day the forest work of the Government is mainly centered in the Forest Service, which, in addition to administering and protecting the national forests, studies a great number of general forest problems and diffuses information regarding forestry.

The Government does other forest work, however, besides that of the Forest Service. The Department of the Interior, through its Office of Indian Affairs and its National Park Service, administers the forests on the Indian reservations and the national parks. The Office of Forest Pathology of the Bureau of Plant Industry, in the Department of Agriculture, studies the diseases of trees, and the branch of insect investigations in the Bureau of Entomology of the same department seeks means for controlling the insect enemies of forests.

CREATION OF NATIONAL FORESTS FROM PUBLIC DOMAIN IN THE WEST

In spite of the evidence of earlier recognition of the need for a national forestry movement, until about 33 years ago the forests on the public domain seemed in a fair way to be destroyed eventually by fire and reckless cutting. Nothing was being done to protect them, or even to use them in the right way. They were simply left to burn, or else to pass by means of one or another of the land laws into the hands of private owners whose interest in most cases impelled them to take from the land what they could get easily and move on.

Had this destruction gone on unchecked, there would in the end have been little timber left in the West,

either to burn or to cut, and the development of the country, which calls for timber not only at certain times but all the time, would have been retarded or stopped altogether.

More than this, the destruction of the forest cover on the watersheds supplying hundreds of streams which rise in the western mountains would have had a certain effect on stream flow—low water or no water at all during the long dry periods, and destructive floods after heavy rains. This, of course, would have meant disaster to the systems of irrigation by which thousands of farmers raise their crops. It would also have very seriously hampered, and in many cases prevented, hydroelectric power development.

Congress, therefore, in 1891, authorized the President to set aside forest reserves, as national forests were for some years called, in order to protect the remaining timber on the public domain from destruction and to insure a regular flow of water in the streams. The first forest reserve—the “Yellowstone Park Timberland Reserve”—was created by President Harrison that same year, and later Presidents have created others, until at present there are 146 national forests with a total net area of over 157,000,000 acres. Within the forest boundaries are also some 25,000,000 acres in private ownership, consisting of lands granted or taken up for one purpose or another before the forests were created, or of forest homesteads and mining claims patented since.

The law of 1891 provided that national forests may be set aside from public lands covered wholly or in part with timber or undergrowth. Later laws have prohibited the enlargement of the forests or the creation of new forests in the States of Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and California through additions from the public lands, except by act of Congress. Some national forests are heavily timbered, and are mainly for timber production; others are located in thinly wooded regions primarily to protect and conserve the water supply, without which the country would be uninhabitable.

The original act made no provision for administering the reserves, and the withdrawal of land involved from all forms of settlement met with vigorous disapproval, especially in the West where the reserves were situated. These defects, however, were largely removed by Congress on June 4, 1897, in a law outlining a system of organization and management for the reserves and placing their administration under the Secretary of the Interior. The American national forest system really dates from the passage of that act.

Government administration of the reserves soon made apparent the necessity for scientific forestry, to make their use general. It was the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to prescribe regulations which would insure the fulfillment of the objects aimed at in creating the reserves. Timber cutting must provide for the growing of a new timber crop. Unrestricted grazing had seriously injured the range; it was necessary to devise methods for increasing the forage crop. Both timber use and grazing use must be so managed that water supplies would be maintained and bettered. All the resources of the forests needed to be given careful consideration and plans devised for their best development. Without such plans little of the value of the forests to the public could be secured. Technical problems were involved which the officials of the Interior Department felt to be outside their province. They therefore at first requested the aid of the experts of the Department of Agriculture as advisers, and soon recommended the transfer of administration of the reserves to the latter department.

This transfer took place in 1905. In 1907 the name "forest reserves" was changed to "national forests," by act of Congress, to indicate that their resources are not locked up as "reserves" for a distant future. National forests are under Government management for the purpose of securing sound economic and industrial development of large areas of timberland in the best interests of all, which experience has shown can not be equally attained under private ownership.

In administering the national forests, therefore, the first aim of the Forest Service has been to protect their resources so that they will always be there to use, and at the same time to see to it that the greatest number of people have an equal chance to use them.

PURCHASE OF EASTERN NATIONAL FORESTS

Long before the creation of national forests began, virtually all the unreserved public lands in the States east of the Mississippi had been taken up. Under the provisions of an act of March 1, 1911 (the so-called Weeks law), Congress inaugurated the purchase of mountain lands from private owners in the Appalachian and White Mountain regions of the East. In the 13 years since this law was passed nearly 2,500,000 acres of spruce and hardwood forest in the Eastern States have been acquired or approved for purchase, out of a total of more than 60,000,000 acres of this class of timberland upon which the eastern industries have been dependent for their supply. The National Forest Reservation Commission, established by this act, consisting of the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, two Members of the Senate, and two Members of the House of Representatives, authorizes the purchase of all lands acquired under this act. As the Government obtains title the forests are put under systematic management with the object of improving their regulative effect upon stream flow and of increasing the supply of forest products.

The timber alone on the eastern national forests has a present value greater than the entire cost to the Government of acquiring these lands, with their timber; and the revenue derived from these forests is increasing steadily. Yet the sales of timber have hitherto been salvaging operations or improvement cuttings rather than actual harvesting of what the forests annually grow, for the lands had been depleted by lumbering and fires while in private ownership. Under the practice of forestry the stands of timber

are increasing, at the same time that the protective value of the cover as a regulator of stream flow is materially improved. From an industrial standpoint, these eastern national forests will play an important part as permanent sources of supply of material, particularly hardwoods for local establishments, and will appreciably lessen the acuteness of the timber shortage in the East as the supplies of virgin timber approach the vanishing point and before the general practice of forestry on private lands has been under way long enough to supply timber of commercial size.

THE FORESTS FOR USE

The policy under which the national forests are administered by the Department of Agriculture through the Forest Service is to make them of the most use to the most people, but especially to the man of small means and the local farmer and settler. They were meant, first of all, to enable the people to build homes and to maintain them. This policy was laid down by the Secretary of Agriculture in a letter to the forester, dated February 1, 1905, in which he said:

In the administration of the forest reserves it must be clearly borne in mind that all land is to be devoted to its most productive use for the permanent good of the whole people and not for the temporary benefit of individuals or companies. All the resources of the forest reserves are for use, and this must be brought about in a thoroughly prompt and businesslike manner, under such restrictions only as will insure the permanence of these resources. * * * You will see to it that the water, wood, and forage of the reserves are conserved and wisely used for the benefit of the home builder first of all, upon whom depends the best permanent use of lands and resources alike. The continued prosperity of the agricultural, lumbering, mining, and livestock interests is directly dependent upon a permanent and accessible supply of water, wood, and forage, as well as upon the present and future use of these resources under businesslike regulations enforced with promptness, effectiveness, and common sense. In the management of each reserve local questions will be decided upon local grounds, the dominant industry will be considered first, but with as little restriction to minor industries as may be possible; sudden changes in industrial conditions will be avoided by gradual adjustment after due notice, and where conflicting interests must be reconciled the question will always be decided from the standpoint of the greatest good to the greatest number in the long run.

AGRICULTURAL LAND

Lands which are more valuable for agriculture than for forestry purposes have been excluded from the national forests either by changes in the forest boundaries or by being opened to settlement and entry under the forest homestead act of June 11, 1906. The act of August 10, 1912, which directed that the national forest lands be classified for the purpose of determining those which are chiefly valuable for agriculture, has resulted in practically all agricultural lands within the national forests being listed for entry in the United States land offices. The greater part of the land which has really valuable agricultural possibilities has been taken up and most of what is left lies at high altitudes remote from roads, schools, villages, and markets, where the winter climate is severe and the growing season short. Prospective settlers will therefore have better chances for success in the immediate vicinity of the forests than in the forests themselves.

RECREATION IN NATIONAL FORESTS

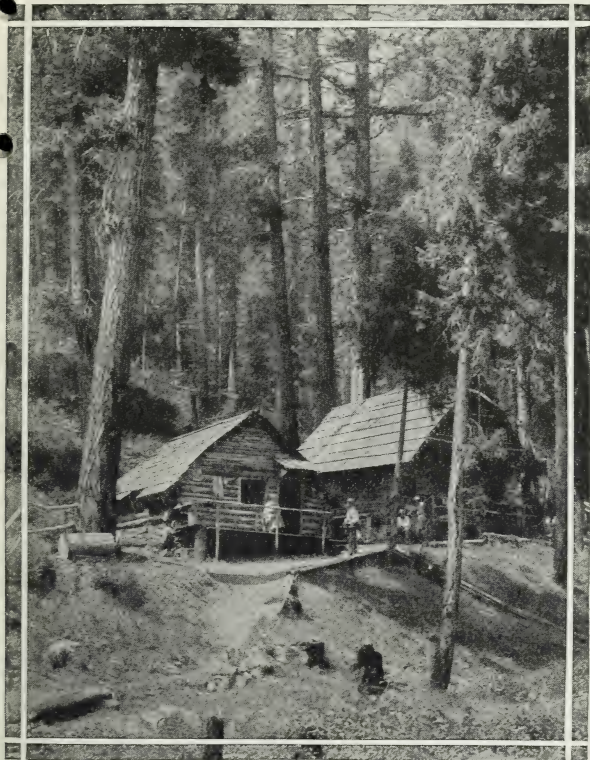
To the camper, sportsman, and seeker after health, rest, and recreation, the national forests offer unrivaled opportunities for outdoor life and enjoyment. The popularity of these great mountain playgrounds is evidenced by the fact that several million people visit them each year. Roads and trails, marked by signs, make the forests reasonably accessible. There are countless secluded spots along the banks of streams and lakes where the camper may pitch his tent. Camping is free and generally requires no permit. The camper may choose his own camp ground and help himself to dead wood for fuel and to forage for his camp stock. In localities frequented by large numbers of people "recreation areas" are being established, and log shelters, camp fireplaces, and comfort stations constructed for the convenience of visitors as fast as the funds available permit. Big game is to be found

in the more secluded parts of the mountains, and there are many excellent trout streams and lakes, yearly restocked with young fish, which offer keen sport to the angler. The only restrictions are those imposed by the fish and game laws of the States in which the forests are located, and all that is asked of the visitor is that he look to the proper sanitation of his camp and be careful with fire.

Many people who visit the national forests desire to return year after year to the same locality for an annual vacation. To meet this demand Congress, by the act of March 4, 1915, authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to issue term permits to "responsible persons or associations to use and occupy suitable spaces or portions of ground in the national forests for the construction of summer homes, hotels, stores, or other structures needed for recreation or public convenience, not exceeding five acres to any one person or association."

The Forest Service wishes to accommodate as many people as practicable. For this reason tracts desirable for summer-home purposes, except in unusual instances, are limited to 1 acre or less in area, and term permits run for a period of from 5 to 15 years, with privilege of renewal. Undue crowding between permittees is avoided, and provision is made for those who especially seek isolation and privacy. The annual rental charge for lands occupied for summer homes varies from \$5 to \$25, depending on the location. Detailed information respecting any particular locality or forest may be secured by addressing the forest supervisor.

On a few of the smaller forests no permits for private summer homes are granted because of the limited amount of Government land available and because there are private lands near by which may be leased or purchased. General use, through the reservation of open camp grounds, is always given first consideration. Special use by individuals who pay rental has been made secondary to the needs of the public.



Tenants of Mother Nature and Uncle Sam

Recreation ranks among the major services performed by the national forests. Each year several million health and recreation seekers visit them, summer-home sites are leased, camping is free and generally requires no permit.

SPECIAL USES OF NATIONAL FOREST LAND

Permission to occupy national forest land for residential, commercial, or industrial purposes not inimical to the protection and management of the forest may be secured under special-use permits obtainable upon payment of moderate fees. Full information concerning the tenure of permit, charge per annum, and other details may be secured upon application to either the supervisor or the district forester.

NATIONAL GAME PRESERVES WITHIN NATIONAL FORESTS

Closely related to the development of recreational facilities is the use of the national forests as the habitat of fish and game. Wild life adds materially to the enjoyment of the national forests by the public, and the preservation of game animals, birds, and fish is a public duty. Game protection is one of the regular activities of the field officers of the Forest Service. Cooperation with the State and local authorities in enforcing the game laws has contributed in no small degree toward making the national forests more attractive to visitors and conserving one of their valuable resources.

Special acts of Congress have designated the following national game preserves, situated wholly or in part within national forests, for the protection of wild life:

Name	National Forest	State
Cherokee.....	Cherokee.....	{Tennessee.
Custer state park game sanctuary..	Harney.....	{Georgia.
Grand Canyon.....	{Kaibab.....	{South Dakota.
Medicine Bow.....	{Tusayan.....	{Arizona.
Pisgah.....	Medicine Bow..	Wyoming.
Wichita.....	Pisgah.....	North Carolina.
	Wichita.....	Oklahoma.

NATIONAL MONUMENTS WITHIN NATIONAL FORESTS

By act of June 8, 1906, Congress provided for the protection of cliff dwellings, pueblo ruins, ancient rock paintings, unique topographic or geologic features, historic landmarks, groves of rare trees in danger of destruction, and other objects of historic and scientific interest on lands controlled by the Government, and authorized the President to create, by proclamation, national monuments for their preservation. When a national monument is created within a national forest, it is under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service, which cooperates with the Bureau of American Ethnology of the Smithsonian Institution in protecting it and securing information regarding such objects. The following national monuments are situated within national forests:

Name	National Forest	State
Bandelier.....	Santa Fe.....	New Mexico.
Big Hole Battle Field.....	Beaverhead.....	Montana.
Bryce Canyon.....	Powell.....	Utah.
Chiricahua.....	Coronado.....	Arizona.
Devil Postpile.....	Sierra.....	California.
Gila Cliff Dwellings.....	Gila.....	New Mexico.
Jewel Cave.....	Harney.....	South Dakota.
Lehman Caves.....	Nevada.....	Nevada.
Mount Olympus.....	Olympic.....	Washington.
Old Kasaan.....	Tongass.....	Alaska.
Oregon Caves.....	Siskiyou.....	Oregon.
Timpanogos Cave.....	Wasatch.....	Utah.
Tonto.....	Tonto.....	Arizona.
Walnut Canyon.....	Coconino.....	Arizona.
Wheeler.....	{Cochetopa.....}	Colorado.
	{Rio Grande.....}	

SALE OF TIMBER

Ripe standing timber on the forests, of which there is a large amount, is sold at a fair price. Anybody may purchase timber, but no one can obtain a monopoly of it or hold it for speculative purposes. The Government is anxious to sell the mature timber on

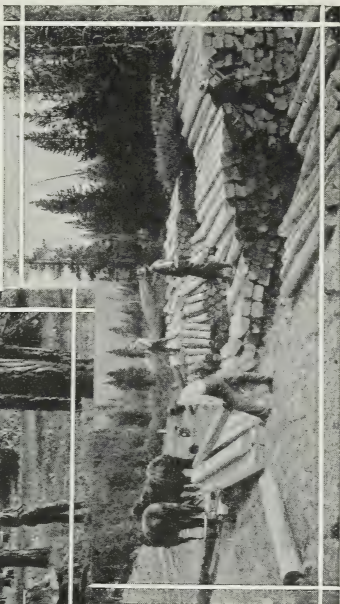
the forests, because it is no longer growing at a profitable rate and should give way to young trees and seedlings which will insure continuous production. The fewest possible restrictions are imposed upon purchasers of timber, only such as will insure cut-over areas being left in the best condition for future growth. Experienced woodsmen estimate the quantity and quality of national forest timber and its approximate value as a basis for the price to be charged. In fixing this, all factors which affect the cost of lumbering, such as accessibility, number and kind of improvements necessary, etc., as well as general market conditions, are taken into account. The prices set allow the purchaser of national forest timber opportunity for a fair profit. Bids are then obtained through public advertisement, unless the amount is small enough to come within the limit which can be sold without advertisement. Information concerning attractive logging chances and the conditions of sale is gladly given inquirers, for the Forest Service wants the ripe timber used.

Before an extensive program of timber sales is started on any national forest, forest officers make a careful survey of its timber resources and prepare a plan of management prescribing the area of timber land to be cut over each year and the methods and order of cutting. These long-time plans are made in order to insure a constant supply of timber for the communities and industries dependent upon the forest for raw material. This makes possible the establishment of permanent wood-using plants and prosperous communities of people who look to the woods as a market for their labor.

The trees to be cut on a sale area are marked in advance by a forest officer, the object being to leave enough of the younger trees to seed the ground and form the basis of a second crop of timber on the same land. This is merely applying the principles of practical forestry to make sure that there will always be timber on the national forests to cut. Timber on the watersheds of streams is not cut to an extent that

After the forest crop is harvested

The Government sells ripe timber on the national forests. Trees to be cut are marked in advance by a forest officer. Enough of the younger trees are left for a later cut or to seed the ground for a new crop. Logging slash must be piled and burned in favorable weather.



The ranger's finishing touch

Lodgepole pine ties piled for shipping. The ranger is stamping the ties with the Forest Service marking hatchet, which bears the impression "U. S." and indicates the official count.

will impair the protective cover that the forest affords because one of the chief objects of the national forests is to regulate stream flow.

Small sales of timber are made by local forest officers without delay. Red-tape methods are not permitted in national-forest timber sales, big or little. Larger sales are made either by the supervisor of the forest, the district forester, or the forester, according to the amount desired.

Small sales of timber for local use are encouraged. This is one of the ways in which the national forests are made to serve the small lumberman and consumer. Though single sales have been made that involved timber with a contract value of approximately \$2,250,000, over nine-tenths of the sales are for \$100 worth of timber or less. Of the 12,720 timber sales on the national forests in the calendar year 1923, 12,269 were of this latter kind.

Homestead settlers and farmers may obtain national forest timber for their own use at the actual cost of making the sale. No charge is made to them for the timber itself. This is one of the ways in which the national forests are made to serve local residents.

GRAZING

Along with the timber on the national forests there is a great deal of grazing land which at present is used every year by over 6,000,000 sheep and goats and nearly 2,000,000 cattle, horses, and swine. If the 6,000,000 young of all kinds (which are not counted or charged for) are added, the total number of animals on the national forests is about 14,000,000.

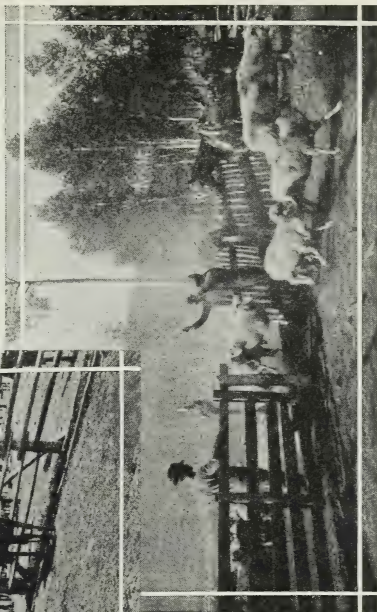
Local settlers and stockmen are given first consideration in the use of the range, just as in the case of the other resources, and every man who grazes stock on the forest under permit is allotted a certain area for the grazing season. Unfair competition between the big man and the little man, which in the old days worked so much harm, is done away with. A good supply of forage year after year is insured by not

For pastures new

Timber is not the only crop of the national forests. Their ranges afford pasturage for nearly 14,000,000 head of stock of all ages.



When the grazing season opens on a forest, the ranger counts sheep and cattle as they come up out of the valleys to use the national forest range.



allowing the land to be overcrowded with stock. Under regulation overgrazed range is improved, instead of being further run down or denuded, as has been the case with many of the outside public lands.

MINING

Mineral deposits within national forests, except such forests as were purchased under the act of March 1, 1911, are open to development exactly as on unreserved public land. A prospector can go anywhere he chooses and stake a claim wherever he finds any evidence of valuable minerals. The only restriction is that mining claims must be bona fide and not taken up for the purpose of acquiring valuable timber, or for a town or power site, or to monopolize the water supply on stock ranges. Bona fide mining men do not wish to take up claims for an unlawful purpose, and the national forests are open to them at all times. Prospectors may obtain a certain amount of national forest timber free of charge to be used in developing their claims, and in other ways the Forest Service gives the mining man all the help it can. As to deposits of coal, oil, and gas, permits to prospect for and leases to develop must be secured through the Department of the Interior.

WATER POWER

Along the streams within the national forests are many sites suitable for power development. These are open to occupancy for such purposes and have the advantage of being on streams whose headwaters are protected. The Government does not permit the monopolization of power in any region or allow power sites to be held without prompt development. Utilization and development of water powers in the national forests are encouraged. The Federal Power Commission is by law permitted to issue licenses for periods of not to exceed 50 years, and such licenses may be renewed under certain conditions. A prelimi-

nary permit also may be secured to protect the applicant's rights during the period necessary for making financial arrangements and for obtaining engineering and other data necessary to the construction of the power project. The law authorizes the commission, other factors being equal, to give preference to applications by States and municipalities, and between other applicants the commission may give preference to the project which is best adapted to develop, conserve, and utilize the navigation and water resources of the region.

NATIONAL FOREST IMPROVEMENTS

To make the national forests fully useful to the public, and also to facilitate their administration and protection as Government properties, it is necessary to equip them with various classes of improvements. Some of these are primarily for official use, as, for example, fire lookout stations, ranger stations, and telephone lines. Incidentally, many of the improvements of this class are of material service to the public. Other improvements are purely for the benefit of specific forms of public use, as, for example, drift fences, stock-watering places, and public camp grounds. Still others are put in both to facilitate the task of administering and protecting the forests and to promote use and serve the interests of the public generally.

Roads and trails are of course necessary for efficient protection of the forests against fire, to enable forest officers to get about in the performance of their tasks, and to open up the forests for users; but they are also a great public convenience and necessity. The Forest Service has pushed road building as rapidly as money could be secured for the purpose, because it has believed Federal ownership of great bodies of land in relatively undeveloped regions carries with it an obligation to bear part of the cost of developing a road system required to meet the needs of local residents and communities.

The Forest Service cooperates with State and county officials, good-roads organizations, and private individuals in the location, survey, construction, and maintenance of roads in the national forests. The road and trail construction work is financed from appropriations under four different acts of Congress.



“Uncle Sam’s handy man”

From his lookout tower the forest ranger is the watchful eye of the Forest Service. In a thousand ways he is the ready hand, the tireless foot. By means of the 30,000 miles of telephone lines put up on the forests, he is the quickened ear.

These funds may be expended upon projects located within or partly within the national forests. Through cooperative arrangement the road projects which require the supervision of engineers intensively trained in highway engineering and construction are handled



The hospitable road

The Forest Service has cooperated in the construction of over 7,000 miles of roads and has built nearly 30,000 miles of trails during its administration of the national forests.

by the Bureau of Public Roads. The numerous road improvement and repair projects required primarily for administrative and protective needs on the national forests, together with trail building and maintenance, are handled directly by the Forest Service and coordinated with fire control as far as possible so that construction crews may be available in remote areas of great fire hazard as part of the fire-suppression organization. Twenty-five per cent of all receipts from national forests are given to the counties in which they lie, to be used for schools and roads. Under one of the acts of Congress 10 per cent is expended by the Secretary of Agriculture upon roads and trails constructed primarily for the benefit of settlers within the forests.

For the complete and economical use of the forage on the forests it is sometimes necessary to develop water or to construct drift fences, bridges, trails, or other works. The Forest Service allots funds for their construction only when the benefit to the forest plainly warrants the expenditure. The use of funds for these purposes can often be made more effective if the assistance and cooperation of interested stockmen can be secured. Requests for cooperation should be addressed to the nearest forest officer.

PROTECTION OF THE NATIONAL FORESTS

FIRE DANGER

Fire is an ever-present danger on the national forests. The great size of the forests compared with the size of the patrolling force, the difficulty of reaching remote areas across miles of wilderness, the dry air and light rainfall in parts of the West, the prevalence of lightning in the mountains, and the constant use of fire in the daily life of the people and in the industries all combine to make the hazard exceptional.

Among the chief causes of fire are lightning, campers, railroads, slash burning, incendiarism, and steam sawmills.

A small fire may spread into a conflagration, and fires, matches, and burning tobacco should be used as carefully in the forest as they are in the home. Carelessness in this respect may mean the loss of lives, homes, stock, and forage, and of a vast amount of timber which belongs equally to all citizens.

Fires may start in a region remote from supplies and water and reach vast proportions before a party of fire fighters can get to the scene, no matter how promptly the start is made. By far the best plan, therefore, is to prevent fires rather than to depend upon fighting them once they start. This subject has been given the most earnest attention by the Forest Service. During the danger season the main attention of supervisors and rangers is devoted to preventing fires. Extra men are employed, the forests are systematically patrolled, and a careful lookout is maintained from high points. Roads and trails are being built so that all parts of the forests may be quickly reached. Tools and food for fire fighters are stored at convenient places. The ranger stations and lookout points are connected with the offices of the supervisors by telephone, so that men may be quickly assembled to fight dangerous fires which the patrolmen can not subdue alone.

During recent fire seasons the Air Service of the Army and the Forest Service have cooperated to some extent in the experimental use of the airplane as a supplement to the lookout system in the prompt detection of forest fires. Flying over the forest, the airplane scans the country for the tiny wisp of smoke which denotes the outbreak. The alarm is then wireless to the nearest fire-fighting headquarters, from which men are dispatched immediately. A patrol from the air is especially important immediately following electrical storms and during periods when many fires send up a smoke screen that renders fire detection from stationary lookouts temporarily ineffective. When fires get large a reconnaissance from the air made by Forest Service observers is a very useful method of securing desired information.

The cooperation of all forest users is earnestly sought in the work of preventing and controlling fire by exercising every care not to cause fires and by informing the nearest forest supervisor or ranger of any fire which may be discovered.

By the observance of the following simple rules for the handling of fire in the mountains users of the forests will very materially assist in their protection.

1. *Matches*.—Be sure your match is out. Break it in two before you throw it away.

2. *Tobacco*.—Throw pipe ashes and cigar or cigarette stumps in the dust of the road or stamp or pinch out the fire before leaving them. Don't throw them into brush, leaves, or needles.

3. *Making camp*.—Build a small camp fire. Build it in the open, not against a tree or log or near brush. Scrape away the trash from all around it.

4. *Leaving camp*.—Never leave a camp fire, even for a short time, without quenching it with water or earth.

5. *Bonfires*.—Never build bonfires in windy weather or where there is the slightest danger of their escaping from control. Don't make them larger than you need.

6. *Fighting fires*.—If you find a fire, try to put it out. If you can't, get word of it to the nearest United States forest ranger or State firewarden at once. Keep in touch with the rangers.

Since practically 80 per cent of the forest fires of known causes are due to human agencies, the need of the most energetic efforts to bring home to the public the importance of care to prevent fires is self-evident. The Forest Service is earnestly seeking to lessen the number of man-caused fires in this way. As recreational use of the forests by the public increases and the local population and activities of all kinds on and near the forests become greater, man-caused fires are bound to become more numerous unless educational methods can be made effective. The present very general observance of forest protection week is bringing to public attention the importance of preventing fires.



The bird's-eye view

The airman often locates a fire which otherwise might be undetected for some time



The man on top

From the top of some lofty peak the lookout keeps watch for signs of smoke in the far-away valleys. A telephone connects him with the nearest ranger station.

and the precautions which it is necessary to observe in order not to cause fires.

PROTECTION OF WATER SUPPLY

Undoubtedly the greatest value of the mountain ranges of the country, most of which are within national forests, lies in their influence upon the regularity of the water supply. In many of the States the mountains afford the main water supply for domestic use, for irrigation, and for the development of power. The future development of the entire country, therefore, will depend upon the amount of water and the manner in which it flows from the mountains.

The vegetal covering has a very decided influence on run-off. For this reason Congress made the preservation of conditions favorable to stream flow one of the principal objects in the establishment and administration of the national forests.

PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH

Precautions are taken by forest officers to protect the public health. All persons on national forest lands are liable to trespass proceedings if insanitary conditions result from their presence. Forest officers enforce compliance with regulations on the part of all campers, stockmen, permittees, and other persons traveling through or occupying national forest lands.

RECEIPTS FROM THE NATIONAL FORESTS

The total net receipts from the national forests on account of timber sales, grazing fees, and special uses during the fiscal years 1923 and 1924, were as follows:

1923.....	\$5, 325, 818
1924.....	5, 251, 903

It could not be expected, of course, that rugged, inaccessible mountain lands, such as constitute by far the greater part of the national forests, would soon yield a revenue to the Government over and above the cost of administration. Many of the forests are

meant to supply the country's future needs for timber after the more accessible lands have been cut over, rather than its present needs, while others are chiefly valuable for watershed protection, which, though of the greatest importance to the people and industries



A source of "white coal" and "liquid gold"

The forest cover has a very decided influence on the purity and abundance of water supply for power, for irrigation, for domestic use. Many communities have entered into cooperative agreements with the Forest Service for the better protection of the watersheds from which they get their supplies.

of the country, does not yield the Government a return in dollars and cents. In the case of almost every forest, moreover, a great deal of money must be spent for roads, trails, bridges, and telephone lines before the resources can be used.

QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES OF FOREST OFFICERS

All permanent positions in the Forest Service are in the classified civil service. Vacancies are filled through selections from eligibles certified by the Civil Service Commission and by promotion in rank. Definite information as to the times and places at which examinations are held may be obtained only from the Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C.

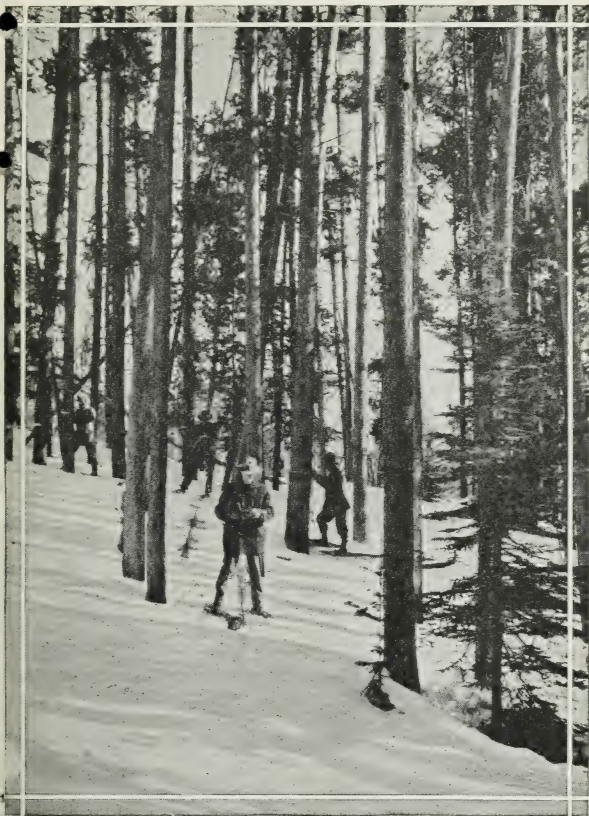
Each national forest is in charge of a forest supervisor, who plans the work on his forest under the instructions of the district forester and supervises its execution. When the amount of business on a national forest warrants it, the supervisor is assisted by a deputy supervisor, who has such duties and authority as may be delegated to him by the supervisor.

Supervisors and deputy supervisors have to be men of experience in woods work, road and trail building, the stock business, and in all other lines of work carried on in the national forests; so the positions are always filled by the promotion or transfer of experienced men from classified positions in the Forest Service. Supervisors' headquarters are located in towns conveniently situated with regard to the forests.

Junior foresters (or technical forest assistants) are employed in the various subordinate lines of technical and administrative work on the forests under the direction of the supervisor. The position of junior forester is filled through a technical examination.

After an apprenticeship period of not less than two years, junior foresters who have rendered satisfactory service are advanced in grade and assigned to such work as examining and mapping forest areas, designating timber to be cut in sales, surveying boundaries, and conducting nursery work and forest planting.

Every national forest is divided into ranger districts, with a district ranger in charge of each. Rangers perform the routine work involved in the supervision



A job for every season

The overflow from summer work, as well as the tasks appropriate to the winter weather, keep the forest officer busy in the snow-carpeted woods.

of timber sales, grazing, and free use and special use. They also help to build roads, trails, bridges, telephone lines, and other permanent improvements on the forests. Physical soundness and endurance are essential on account of the heavy labor and exposure involved in such work as building improvements and fighting fire. The forest ranger must also know how to pack supplies and find food for himself and his horse in a country where it is often scarce. On the Alaska national forests travel is almost entirely by water, and the ranger must know how to navigate a seagoing launch. The position of ranger is filled through a civil-service examination, in which applicants are rated on the basis of a written test and also according to their education, experience, and fitness.

In addition to the different classes of forest officers mentioned, logging engineers, lumbermen, scalers, and planting assistants are employed on the forests in the work of timber appraisal, cruising, scaling, and forest planting. Like all other permanent employees, they are appointed only after a civil-service examination.

Forest guards are temporary employees appointed during the seasons of greatest fire danger.

On July 1, 1923, the force employed by the Forest Service numbered 4,932. Of these, about 4,012 were employed upon the national forests as supervisors, deputy supervisors, rangers, guards, etc., and 920 were engaged in administrative, scientific, and clerical work at the Washington and district headquarters, the Forest Products Laboratory, and the forest and grazing experiment stations.

FOREST OFFICERS AND THE PUBLIC

Whoever wishes to make any use of the resources of the national forests for which a permit is required should consult the nearest forest officer. Supervisors, rangers, and other forest officers carry out the administrative policy prescribed for the national forests by Congress, as embodied in the regulations made by

the Secretary of Agriculture. Forest officers are agents of the people and their duty is to assist the public in making use of the resources of the forests. They aim to prevent misunderstanding and violation of forest regulations by timely and tactful advice rather than to follow up violations by the exercise of their authority. Forest users can aid greatly in the efficient performance of the public business by according to forest officers the same frankness, consideration, and courtesy which the forest officers are expected to show them.

THE EXTENSION OF FORESTRY PRACTICE

The greatness of the national forest enterprise and the prominence accorded its accomplishments have given the impression to some that the problem of forestry is solved. In point of fact, this is by no means the case, for the national forests contain only about one-sixth of the forest area of the country and not quite one-fourth of the standing saw timber. Private owners hold almost four-fifths of the timberland of the United States. A small amount (about one-thirtieth) is in national parks, military and Indian reserves, State and municipal parks and forests, and the public domain. The amount of lumber which is actually placed on the market from the national forests amounts to only about 3 per cent of the entire consumption of the country. The rest comes from private lands. While the proportion will be altered in the future, the country must still look to private lands for a large part of its forest supplies.

Public forestry has made vast strides; but the forests of the country that are in private hands are being depleted with very great rapidity, and almost everywhere without effort to renew them. A grave situation is becoming manifest in various ways, and the problem presented is one that can be solved only by public action. The general practice of forestry on privately owned lands in the United States will not take place through unstimulated private initiative.

A study recently made by the Forest Service showed that over two-thirds of the original forests of the United States have been culled, cut over, or burned, and that three-fifths of their merchantable timber is gone. The country is losing about 25,000,000,000 cubic feet of wood annually from its forests and is growing but 6,000,000,000 cubic feet. We are cutting every class of timber, even trees too small for the sawmill, much faster than it is being replaced.

The effect of the depletion of timber is being felt more and more among the wood-using industries. A recent study of the pulp-and-paper industry made by the Forest Service shows that diminishing of the timber supply in the Northeast and the Lake States, where the industry is largely concentrated, has led to an increasing dependence upon imports for our paper. Of the 9,148,000 cords of wood required for our paper consumption in 1922, over half was imported in one form or another.

There are still large supplies of timber in the United States but they are not in the right place. Sixty-one per cent of what is left lies west of the Great Plains, far from the bulk of our population, agriculture, and factories. The distance between the average sawmill and the average home builder is steadily increasing, and we shall soon be dependent for the bulk of our construction lumber upon the forests of the Pacific coast.

We have used up our forests without growing new ones. At the bottom of the whole problem is idle forest land. The United States contains 331,000,000 acres of cut-over or denuded forests containing no saw timber; 81,000,000 acres of this amount has been completely devastated by forest fires and methods of cutting which destroy or prevent new timber growth. The area of idle or largely idle land is being increased by from 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 acres annually, as the cutting and burning of forests continue. We are short of growing forests.

The situation necessitates a broad policy of forestry for the whole Nation which will include both an en-

larged program of public acquisition of forests by the Federal Government, the several States, and municipalities, and the protection and perpetuation of forest growths on all privately owned lands which may not better be used for agriculture and settlement. For the latter there must be (1) an organized system of protection of all forest lands, including cut-over lands, against fire, with a division of the cost of maintaining protection between the public and timberland owners, and (2) public prescription and enforcement of methods of woods practice necessary to prevent devastation.

COOPERATION WITH STATES

FIRE CONTROL

Forest fires, which covered a total of 102,587,599 acres of land in 45 States, caused damage amounting to \$142,517,651 during the eight years 1916 to 1923, inclusive. A total of 329,780 forest fires occurred during this period in the United States.

Through cooperation of the Federal Government with States, under the provisions of the Weeks law, very substantial progress has been made in bringing about protection against fire on the forested watersheds of navigable streams. The law authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into cooperative agreements with States which provide by law for a system of forest-fire control and are prepared to spend each year at least as much as the Federal Government contributes toward maintaining the system.

Since the enactment of the Weeks law the number of States cooperating with the Government, the amount of funds contributed, and the forest area given protection under this plan have increased steadily. In 1911, the first year of cooperation under the Weeks law, 11 States entered into agreements to protect a total of 7,000,000 acres of forest land, at a total cost of \$350,000, of which the Federal Government contributed about \$39,000. In 1924 the 29 States cooperating protected 180,000,000 acres of

forest land, at a total cost of about \$4,000,000, which the Federal Government contributed \$400,000. The funds contributed by or through the States included considerable contributions made by land-owners. Further extension of this important work depends largely on an increase in Federal funds.

FOREST POLICIES

The Forest Service offers its assistance to States in the formulation of their forest policies. The majority of the States have received assistance of this character. To the extent of its ability, the Forest Service also offers to assist owners of timberland who wish to adopt a definite policy of reforestation and forest management. This work has been carried on more extensively in the South than elsewhere, largely in the naval stores industry.

CLARKE-McNARY LAW

Activities in State cooperation will be extended through the Clarke-McNary law which passed Congress in June, 1924. This act authorizes annual appropriations of \$2,500,000 for the prevention and suppression of forest fires, \$100,000 for the distribution of forest planting stock to the owners of farms, and \$100,000 for assistance to farmers in managing their forest lands.

FARM FORESTRY

In carrying on an educational program as applied to farm forestry the Forest Service works in cooperation with the extension service of the United States Department of Agriculture. This work is focused particularly on the more efficient management of farm woodlands, the reforestation of those farm lands not now suitable for agricultural crops, and the utilization and preservative treatment of farm timbers. A considerable number of agricultural colleges give courses on those subjects, and an increasing number are including similar work in their extension programs.

Forestry extension specialists are appointed as members of the college extension staff. They work with the county agricultural agents and the farmers in much the same way as do the extension specialists in other lines of agriculture. The object of their efforts is to demonstrate to farmers that the growing of trees and the efficient utilization of forest products is a desirable part of their plan of farm management. When it is considered that about 150,000,000 acres, or about one-third of the forest land of the country, is in farm woodlands, the importance of this work is realized.

FOREST RESEARCH

Besides administering the national forests, the Forest Service conducts many investigations relating to the protection, growth, and management of forests, to the utilization of their products, and to their place in the economic life of the Nation. The research work is not limited to problems which directly concern the management of the national forests. Its object is to promote the best use of the forest resources of the United States, whether in public or private ownership. This means both the general practice of forestry and the most intelligent use of forest products of all kinds, especially wood products. The investigations concern forest management, forest products, forest economics, and grazing.

SILVICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Investigations in forest management aim at obtaining more thorough knowledge of forest resources and their benefits. This work is centered at a series of forest experiment stations. The general plan of the department is eventually to establish and maintain a station in each of the important forest regions of the country. Such stations are already in operation in the Northeast, Lake States, Southern Appalachians, Southern pine belt, the Northern Rocky Mountains, and the Pacific Northwest, and work on a smaller scale

is under way in Colorado, California, and the Southwest. At these various forest experiment stations intensive studies are made of such things as the rates of growth and requirements of the different tree species, what methods of cutting will be followed by the best reproduction of the most desirable kinds of trees under varying conditions, the best methods of nursery practice and of field sowing and planting, and how best to protect the forests from fire and other damaging agencies. The relation of forests to climate, stream flow, and erosion are also investigated. The forest experiment stations are so located as to afford a wide range of conditions in different parts of the country. They are supplemented by diversified field studies which round out a systematic search for the basic knowledge required to make our forests fully productive.

FOREST PRODUCTS

It is just as important to know what to grow as how to grow, and just as important to make the most of what is produced as to make the forests produce more material for consumption. The investigations in forest products closely interlock with those in forest management. Their object is to bring production and consumption into the most advantageous adjustment, from the standpoint of the public welfare, through study on the one hand of the raw material that the forests produce and on the other hand of the requirements of our industries and their processes of manufacture.

The bulk of this work on forest products is centered at the Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, Wis., maintained in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin. Here intensive studies are made of the physical, mechanical, and chemical properties of wood and wood products. These include tests of the strength of practically all American woods of commercial importance, studies in seasoning and kiln drying, wood preservation, the manufacture of paper pulp, fiber,

board, and the like, and the production of alcohol, turpentine, rosin, tar, and other chemical products.

Through such studies the wood-consuming industries are helped to find the most suitable raw material and to develop methods of utilizing their waste products, while forest owners are helped by having new uses developed and new markets opened for what they grow. An important part of the work is to discover ways of using the woods which, though often abundant, have been considered of little or no value. On such studies largely depends the extent to which the practice of forestry will be taken up. In a nutshell, the investigations in forest products are conducted in order that the forest resources of the country may be best conserved, developed, and utilized. While some of the work aims directly at making possible the most effective utilization and marketing of national forest timber, the general object is to do this for timber grown anywhere, and thus to extend forestry and increase the service and value of forests to the Nation.

FOREST ECONOMICS

Similarly, the investigations in forest economics furnish information promotive of forestry and the best adjustment of supply and demand through inquiries that throw light on market requirements, prices, and tendencies, and on probable future needs as the country grows. Statistics are collected on the prices of lumber and other important forest products, and on the use of the products by the various industries. Studies are made of current economic conditions in the wood-using industries, including such factors as production, consumption, stocks on hand, exports and imports, labor problems, and transportation. Data are secured on the forest resources of this and other countries, the effect of timber depletion on industrial and community development, the relation between forest taxation and the practice of forestry, and similar economic problems.

GRAZING INVESTIGATIONS

Grazing investigations have to do with improving the forage crop and securing its fullest and best use. Studies are made of artificial and natural reseeding of the range; of the feed value of the various forage plants, and where they grow; of the best methods of handling stock on the range; of water development for stock and the relation between the frequency of watering places and the welfare of the range and the stock; of the eradication of poisonous plants; and of the effect of grazing on forest reproduction, on erosion, and on stream flow.

These investigations are both experimental and general. Experimental work is carried on mainly at the Great Basin Forest Experiment Station on the Manti National Forest in Utah, the Jornada Range Reserve in New Mexico, and the Santa Rita Range Reserve in southern Arizona. The general studies concern the actual management of the range, and are made where particular problems come up in connection with grazing on the national forests.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT WOODLANDS AND FOREST PRODUCTS

The Forest Service does all that it can to put its information at the service of the public and get what it has found out into practice. Besides publishing its results in helpful, practical form, it furnishes information, advice, and cooperation to the extent of its ability.

Timberland owners, farmers who have woodlands, other small owners, and persons wishing information on tree planting for timber production, windbreaks, shelter belts, and the like are given such data as the Service has available, applicable to their special needs. For the benefit of farmers and other small owners, information has been gathered, and may be had on application, concerning the marketing of timber in relatively small quantities. By devoting land of relatively low agricultural value to timber growing, ap

plying intelligent methods of production, and marketing to advantage, many farmers could add substantially to their income. In those States which have State foresters, however, these officers are ordinarily better sources of information regarding local conditions and the best methods of forestry practice for the individual to use than is the Forest Service. Applicants for information and advice who are residents of such States are therefore customarily referred to the proper State official for better attention to their specific needs.

Information on such matters as the properties and uses of wood, wood seasoning, and preservative treatment, and methods of obtaining or utilizing forest products of any kind is obtainable from the Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, Wis., where investigations of this character are centered. Cooperation is sought particularly with the wood-using industries for the solution of their problems and the application of results. Examinations may be made, on request, of the methods of individuals, companies, and corporations in handling forest products, and plans may be prepared for improved methods, if it is judged that this will reduce waste in utilizing forest products and will secure information useful generally in the industry concerned to a degree sufficient to justify the project. Details regarding the terms on which cooperative agreements will be made may be had on application to the Forest Products Laboratory.

PUBLICATIONS

To facilitate widespread diffusion of useful knowledge relating to forests, forestry, and forest products, to promote increased use of the national forests, and to obtain the fullest possible cooperation of the public in their protection, the Forest Service has issued a large number of publications. Its purpose is to make available as promptly as possible, through publications, all new results of research work of value to scientists, foresters, timberland owners, farmers,

lumbermen, or the woodworking and allied industries. Some of these publications may be had free of charge as long as the supply lasts, by applying to the Forest Service. Others are sold, usually at a low price, by the superintendent of documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., from whom price lists may be had free on application.

PHOTOGRAPHS, LANTERN SLIDES, AND EXHIBITS

The Forest Service has a considerable collection of photographs showing forest conditions and illustrative of forest utilization and forestry generally in all parts of the United States. This collection is open to the public for inspection. Photographic prints, lantern slides, and forest maps are furnished for educational purposes, through loan or sale. When sold the charge made is required by law to be cost plus 10 per cent. Prints are furnished for use in illustrating materials to be published in newspapers or other periodicals, and for use in book illustrations. Lantern slides and bromide enlargements are also furnished for use in educational work by lecturers and schools, and for exhibit purposes. The object in every case is to diffuse information concerning forestry.

Advice and assistance is given authors and publishers of textbooks having to do with forests and forestry, if desired.

Material for use in visual education may be borrowed for short periods without cost, except for transportation, by schools, libraries, clubs, and other institutions or organizations. This material consists of traveling exhibits, sets of lantern slides, and motion picture films.

The traveling exhibits include sets of enlarged photographs illustrating the subjects of forestry, nature study, and farm woodlands, and specimens of commercial wood species, with maps and other information.

The lantern slides, most of which are in sets accompanied by lecture outlines, illustrate the subjects of general forestry, the work of the Forest Service, forestry in its relation to farm woodlands, nature study, geography, manual training, etc.

The motion pictures, most of which are one reel (1,000 feet) in length, cover the subjects of fire prevention, reforestation, lumbering, grazing, Forest Service work, the forests as reservoirs, and the forests as places of recreation and beauty.

The Forest Service maintains a considerable amount of material for use in making exhibits at fairs and expositions, both in cooperation with other bureaus of the Government and independently.

Particular attention is given to enlisting the interest and cooperation of the public in the prevention and control of forest fires and in the extension of the practice of forestry by private owners, and wide use of the national forests is promoted by directing the preparation and diffusion of information having this end in view.

FOREST SERVICE ORGANIZATION

WASHINGTON OFFICE

The administration of the national forests and the conduct of all matters relating to forestry which have been placed upon the Department of Agriculture by Congress are, under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture, in charge of the forester and the associate forester. The work of the Forest Service is organized under the branches of operation, forest management, grazing, lands, research, engineering, and public relations.

The branch of operation has general supervision of the finances, personnel equipment, quarters, and supplies of the service, and of all fire control and permanent improvement work on the national forests.

The branch of forest management supervises the sale and cutting of timber on the national forests and

reforestation of denuded land, and cooperates with States in protecting forest lands under the Weeks law.

The branch of grazing supervises the grazing of livestock upon the national forests, allotting grazing privileges and dividing the ranges between different owners and classes of stock. It is also charged with the work of improving depleted grazing areas and of cooperating with the Federal and State authorities in the enforcement of livestock quarantine regulations.

The branch of lands examines and classifies lands within the national forests to determine their value for forest purposes; conducts the work in connection with claims on the national forests prior to proceedings before United States registers and receivers; and has general supervision over the use and occupancy of national forest lands under special-use permits, the development of recreational resources within the national forests, the exchanges of national forest lands and timber for lands in private ownership within the national forests, and the administrative work connected with the purchase of forest lands in the eastern United States.

The branch of research has supervision over the investigative work of the service, including silvicultural studies, studies of State forest conditions, investigations of the lumber and wood-using industries and lumber prices, and the investigative work carried on at the Forest Products Laboratory and the forest experiment stations.

The branch of engineering administers water power permits and easements granted prior to the passage of the Federal water power act, and makes such power investigations and reports as are requested by the Federal Power Commission. It is also charged with the making of such surveys and maps as are necessary to the national forest work. It administers for the Forest Service the provisions of the national forest road appropriation acts and supervises the construction of such roads and trails as are handled by the Forest Service. All civil-engineering work in the service is now handled by this branch.

The branch of public relations devises and develops means of contact with the public, to the end that the services which the Forest Service is prepared to render may be better known and more generally made use of. These means include official publications, information for the press, information and material for use in schools, and forestry exhibits and motion pictures. The branch gives particular attention to enlisting the cooperation of the public in the prevention and control of forest fires.

NATIONAL FOREST DISTRICTS

In order to prevent delay and "red tape" in the administration of the national forests, eight field districts have been established, with a district forester in charge at each of the headquarters, as follows:

District 1.—Northern district (Montana, north-eastern Washington, northern Idaho, and northwestern South Dakota), Missoula, Mont.

District 2.—Rocky Mountain district (Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, northern Michigan and northern Minnesota), Denver, Colo.

District 3.—Southwestern district (Arizona and New Mexico), Albuquerque, N. Mex.

District 4.—Intermountain district (Utah, southern Idaho, western Wyoming, eastern and central Nevada, and northwestern Arizona), Ogden, Utah.

District 5.—California district (California and southwestern Nevada), San Francisco, Calif.

District 6.—North Pacific district (Washington and Oregon), Portland, Oreg.

District 7.—Eastern district (Maine, New Hampshire, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Porto Rico), Washington, D. C.

District 8.—Alaskan district (Alaska), Juneau, Alaska.

In the eight field districts established for decentralized administration of the national forests, the

work of the district forester is directed by the branch in their several lines. Under the district forester, assistant district foresters are in immediate charge of the same specialized activities throughout the district and on the individual forests. The forest supervisors direct all activities on their forests, and the line of responsibility runs from them to the district forester, and from the latter to the forester. The forests and districts are geographic divisions, each with a chief executive responsible to a single superior executive, who is aided in his supervision and direction of the division under him by specialized branches in his office.

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